# FOUNDATION ALTERNATE SCEN

September 15, 2025 / by davidgoyer

Every season on Foundation we do countless rewrites. Sometimes, we have to cut for budget. Othe entire scenes and decide to cut them while in post-production.

Foundation, Season 3 had a lot more turmoil than normal because of the strikes and various shut-d that I wish the pace of the show could have opened up a bit. Some of the episodes were quite shor more.

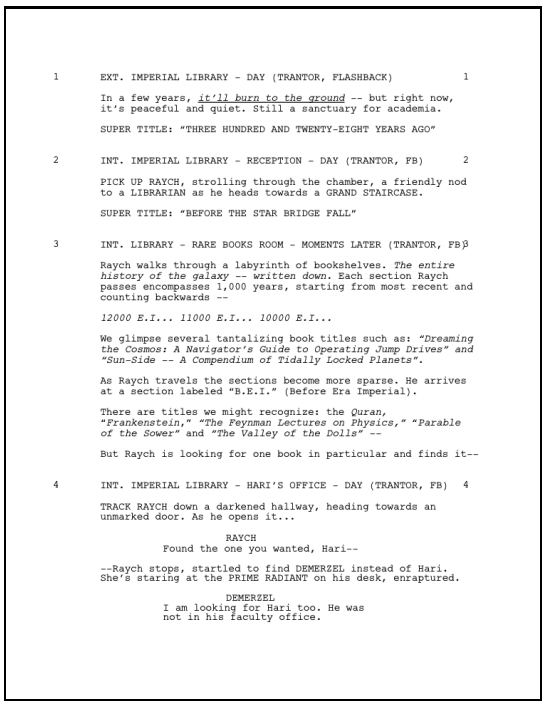
All that said, I think it's a great season and I'm largely happy with it.

Here, I've attached a few scenes that were cut for budgeting purposes. Some of them are interestir

First up is the original opening to 301, which contained a Hari, Raych and Demerzel flashback to be Gaal in dialogue in 306. It also includes what we call a "front porch", which is an extended introduc

galaxy is discussed in dialogue rather than through Gaal's voice-over.

## 301 ORIGINAL OPENING



1 EXT. IMPERIAL LIBRARY - DAY (TRANTOR, FLASHBACK) 1

In a few years, *it'll burn to the ground* -- but right now, it's peaceful and quiet. Still a sanctuary for academia.

SUPER TITLE: "THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS AGO"

2 INT. IMPERIAL LIBRARY - RECEPTION - DAY (TRANTOR, FB) 2

PICK UP RAYCH, strolling through the chamber, a friendly nod to a LIBRARIAN as he heads towards a GRAND STAIRCASE.

SUPER TITLE: "BEFORE THE STAR BRIDGE FALL"

3 INT. LIBRARY - RARE BOOKS ROOM - MOMENTS LATER (TRANTOR, FB) 3

Raych walks through a labyrinth of bookshelves. *The entire history of the galaxy -- written down.* Each section Raych passes encompasses 1,000 years, starting from most recent and counting backwards --

*12000 E.I... 11000 E.I... 10000 E.I...*

We glimpse several tantalizing book titles such as: *"Dreaming the Cosmos: A Navigator's Guide to Operating Jump Drives" and "Sun-Side -- A Compendium of Tidally Locked Planets".*

As Raych travels the sections become more sparse. He arrives at a section labeled "B.E.I." (Before Era Imperial).

There are titles we might recognize: the *Quran, "Frankenstein," "The Feynman Lectures on Physics," "Parable of the Sower"* and *"The Valley of the Dolls"* --

But Raych is looking for one book in particular and finds it--

4 INT. IMPERIAL LIBRARY - HARI'S OFFICE - DAY (TRANTOR, FB) 4

TRACK RAYCH down a darkened hallway, heading towards an unmarked door. As he opens it...

RAYCH
Found the one you wanted, Hari--

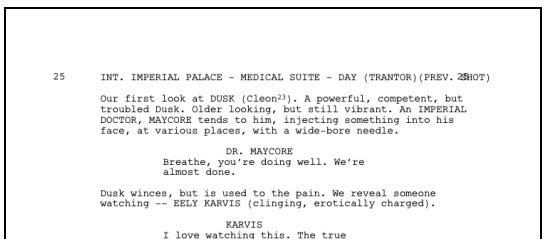
--Raych stops, startled to find DEMERZEL instead of Hari. She's staring at the PRIME RADIANT on his desk, enraptured.

DEMERZEL
I am looking for Hari too. He was not in his faculty office.

Later on in 301, we had a more extended introduction to the current Dusk, which teed up his prepar with Karvis, who was played by Fisayo Akinade — a wonderful actor. I miss some of Karvis and Dus

Then there was an additional fitting scene for the Brother Darkness costume, which has a bookend tantrum performance about the robes was a delight.

## 301 DUSK OPENING



25 INT. IMPERIAL PALACE - MEDICAL SUITE - DAY (TRANTOR)(PREV. 2 SHOT) 25

Our first look at DUSK (Cleon[23]). A powerful, competent, but troubled Dusk. Older looking, but still vibrant. An IMPERIAL DOCTOR, MAYCORE tends to him, injecting something into his face, at various places, with a wide-bore needle.

DR. MAYCORE
Breathe, you're doing well. We're almost done.

Dusk winces, but is used to the pain. We reveal someone watching -- EELY KARVIS (clinging, erotically charged).

KARVIS
I love watching this. The true

face of Empire revealed.

Still getting injected, Dusk speaks without moving his face:

DUSK
Yes, well, don't know why I'm bothering anymore. Ten days?! What's the point?

KARVIS
Ascension comes too soon, of late. Too soon. I don't see why they moved it.

DUSK
So. Will it be ready? Before I'm gone? Dawn's too young and Day...
(he waves a vague hand)
Without me, the *new* Day will need it. Fuck dammit!

Maycore quickly withdraws the needle from the back of Dusk's neck, leaves a dark bead of liquid on the skin.

DR. MAYCORE
It would hurt less if you kept *still*.

The Doctor quails, but Dusk is occupied with his reflection--

DUSK
Ahh, here we go.

And now, we can SEE the injected nanotech working - Dusk's cheeks filling out, wrinkles smoothing, jowls disappearing...

310 saw the biggest changes. Most of the climax of the Imperial storyline had been filmed before t
the abruptness of the Bayta/Mule reveal and that's a fair comment. We were never able to film the
the fans is up to you to decide. At the very least, it's a sliding doors glimpse of an alternate path. T
Mule".

# 310 BAYTA REVEAL

**INT. FOUNDATION STATION - INDBUR'S OFFICE - SPACE**

Silence in the room. Toran looks at her confused. And as if to illustrate, MERCENARIES flood the room, led by Vandagh.

TORAN
Bayta what are you talking about--

BAYTA
(patiently)
I'm the Mule, Toran.

She enters the room, looking down at the dead space pirate we thought was the Mule. She turns to Magnifico--

BAYTA (CONT'D)
Poor puppy. I really am sorry I left you with him for so long. It helped me, having everyone believe it was all the work of a big brute.
(beat)
I even made *him* think he was the Mule. Funny-tragic, I think. I poured so much of myself into him, my *memories*... but I knew what he was. I knew he was hurting you. I'm sorry.

MAGNIFICO
I was glad of the hurts, if they served you.

Toran's world is spinning. His eyes bounce between Magnifico and Bayta in utter disbelief.

TORAN
Bayta, stop. You're converted, or--

Finally, she loses her patience.

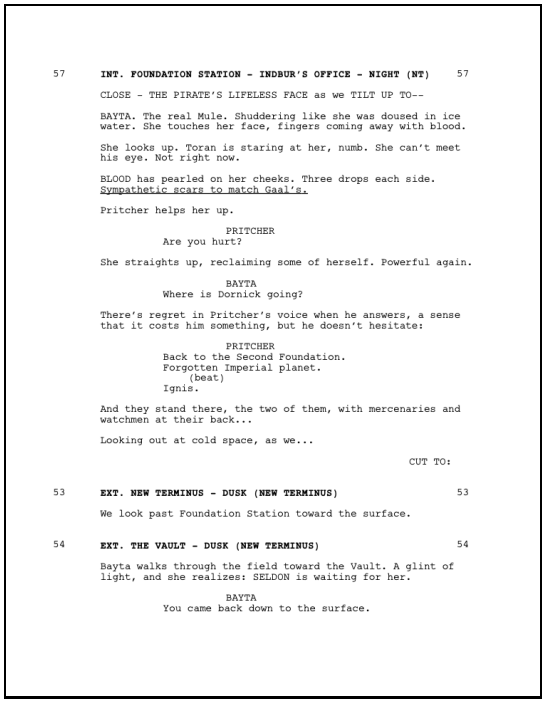
BAYTA
-- Torie *think*... Please. We're supposed to "happen to be in town" when there's fabulous parties, not invasions. I took us to Kalgan for a reason.

TORAN
For our *honeymoon*.

She just looks at him sadly, not sure what to say.

Finally, after Gaal escapes, we returned to Bayta and then had a scene between her and Vault Hari. final Bayta candidates, we had them read both her introduction suntanning on Kalgan (to showcas know that the actresses could confidently make the heel turn towards the Mule. Of all the woulda-s scenes the most.

## 310 BAYTA & HARI



57 **INT. FOUNDATION STATION - INDBUR'S OFFICE - NIGHT (NT)** 57

CLOSE - THE PIRATE'S LIFELESS FACE as we TILT UP TO--

BAYTA. The real Mule. Shuddering like she was doused in ice water. She touches her face, fingers coming away with blood.

She looks up. Toran is staring at her, numb. She can't meet his eye. Not right now.

BLOOD has pearled on her cheeks. Three drops each side. Sympathetic scars to match Gaal's.

Pritcher helps her up.

PRITCHER
Are you hurt?

She straights up, reclaiming some of herself. Powerful again.

BAYTA
Where is Dornick going?

There's regret in Pritcher's voice when he answers, a sense that it costs him something, but he doesn't hesitate:

PRITCHER
Back to the Second Foundation.
Forgotten Imperial planet.
(beat)
Ignis.

And they stand there, the two of them, with mercenaries and watchmen at their back...

Looking out at cold space, as we...

CUT TO:

53 **EXT. NEW TERMINUS - DUSK (NEW TERMINUS)** 53

We look past Foundation Station toward the surface.

54 **EXT. THE VAULT - DUSK (NEW TERMINUS)** 54

Bayta walks through the field toward the Vault. A glint of light, and she realizes: SELDON is waiting for her.

BAYTA
You came back down to the surface.

In any event, I'm grateful for my six year journey on Foundation and to the passionate fan commun challenged and inspired us. Thanks so much for your engagement.

See you on the next project. – DSG

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